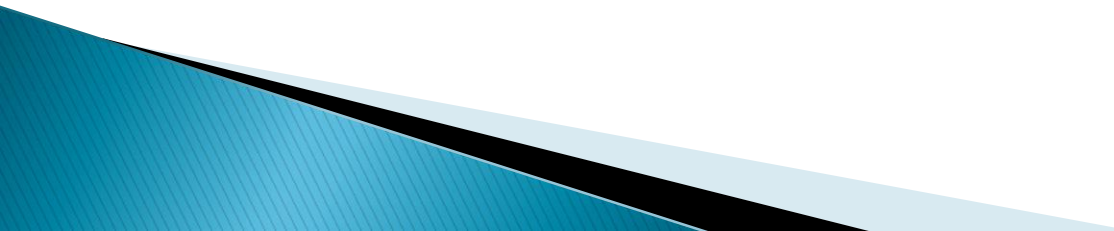


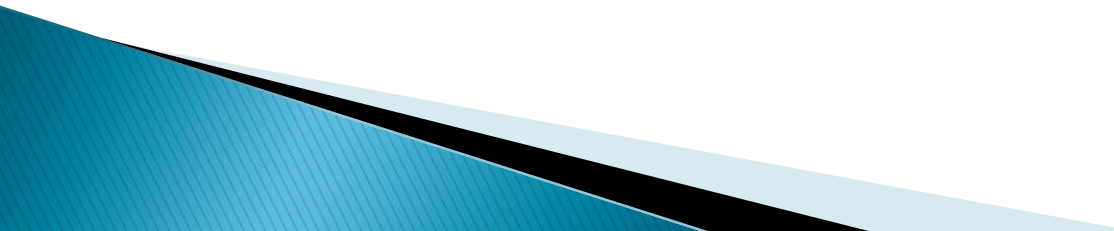
Montana Gang Threat Assessment 2011

Presentation of Findings
for the ICC Workgroup
June 29, 2011

Overview of Presentation

- ▶ Background
 - ▶ Findings
 - ▶ Areas for future research
 - ▶ Questions
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MGTA 2011 – Background

- ▶ No state level gang research
 - ▶ Little is empirically known at the state level about the nature and scope of gangs in Montana
 - ▶ Little research has been done on “rural” gangs
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MGTA 2011 – Background

- ▶ Egley et al. 2010, found that gang presence in rural counties is increasing
 - Since 2002, in rural counties the number of gangs has increased 26% and the number of members is up 16%
 - In cities with populations of <25,000 residents, the number of reported gangs is up 35%
 - However, rural gangs still account for only a sliver of the whole pie (<5%)

MGTA 2011 – Background

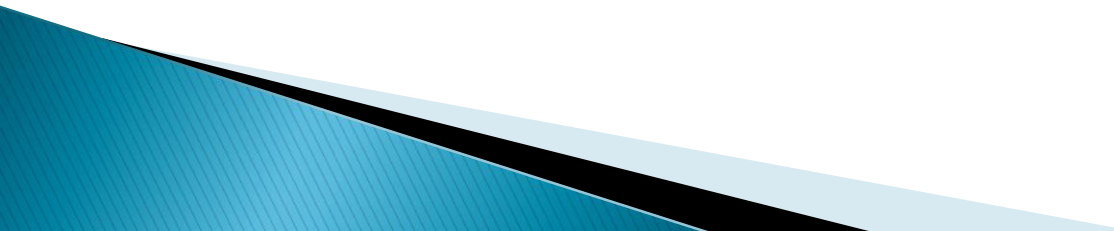
- ▶ Definition: *An ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, and must have a common interest and/or activity characterized by the commission of or involvement in a pattern of criminal or delinquent conduct* (MTIBRS Handbook; 18).

MGTA 2011 – Background


- ▶ A quick word on “multiple marginality”
 - A concept developed by Diego Vigil Ph.D.
- ▶ MM is a theoretical framework that combines multiple social and cultural factors that contribute to marginalization of youth and young adults that eventually contributes to gang formation

MM Trajectory:

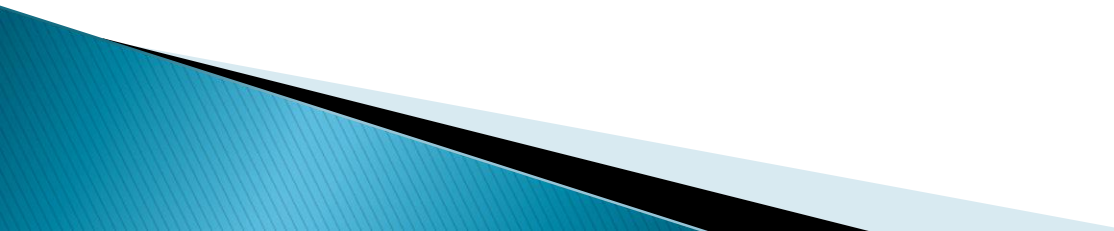
Place/status -> street socialization -> street subculture -> street identity



MGTA 2011 – Findings

- ▶ What is the nature (e.g., criminal activity, ethnic makeup, gang affiliation) and scope (quantity) of gangs, both youth and adult, in Montana?
 - ▶ What county-level characteristics are risk factors for the formation of gangs within Montana communities?
 - ▶ Does multiple marginality (e.g., high minority populations, high rates of school dropout, high unemployment, crime, poverty, and pro-social gun carrying attitudes) have some effect on the presence of gangs in Montana communities?
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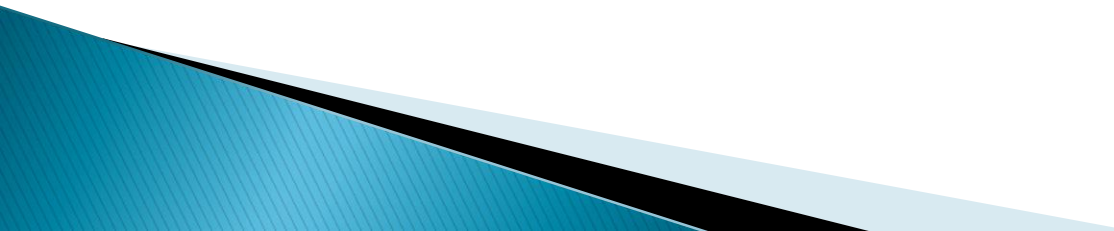
MGTA 2011 – Findings

- ▶ 104 of 117 LEAs responded to the survey; 94 fully completed the survey.
 - ▶ Representative of law enforcement in 51 counties covering 95% of the states population
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MGTA 2011 – Findings

- ▶ What is the nature (e.g., criminal activity, ethnic makeup, gang affiliation) and scope (quantity) of gangs, both youth and adult, in Montana?
- ▶ Gangs that were identified as “most active”
 - Juvenile Gangs: “Other”, Insane Clown Posse (ICP)
 - Adult/Young Adult Street Gangs: “Other”; Native 3x5 Native Bloods/Native Pride; Little Valley Locos; Bloods; and Crips
 - Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs): Bandidos/Banditos and Hermanos/Hermonos


MGTA 2011 Finding

- ▶ 32 respondents replied affirmative to the question: “Are there gangs or gang members in your jurisdiction?”
 - ▶ Accounts for 19 counties
 - ▶ Conservative estimate of “documented gang members” is 304 to 459 persons
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MGTA 2011 – Findings

- ▶ Identified gangs with moderate to high levels of activity
 - Bloods
 - Crips
 - Locos/LVL
 - Bandidos
 - Native Pride
 - ICP

However, there does not appear to be one prevailing street gang identity across the state, but many gang identities operating independently in multiple counties. There seems to be an eclectic mix of low to moderately active street gangs...



MGTA 2011 – Findings

- ▶ Change in gang activity?
 - Within past 6 months most respondents (~85%) said either no change or decreased
 - Within past 12 months most respondents (~73%) said no change or increased slightly
 - Within the past 5 years most respondents (~64%) said it increased, only 2 respondents said gang activity decreased

MGTA 2011 – Findings

▶ Gang Crimes

◦ Drug offenses

- Low to moderate levels of “street level–sales” of marijuana, pharmaceuticals, and methamphetamine
- Low levels of Drugs–Wholesale

◦ Assault (moderate to high)

◦ Weapon law violations (low to moderate)

◦ Property crimes (low to moderate)

- Burglary, larceny/theft, vandalism/graffiti/tagging


MGTA 2011 – Findings

- ▶ What county level characteristics are risk factors for the formation of gangs within Montana communities?
 - Gang counties had higher drug crime rates; property crime rates; and were located in counties with larger populations (statistically significant differences)

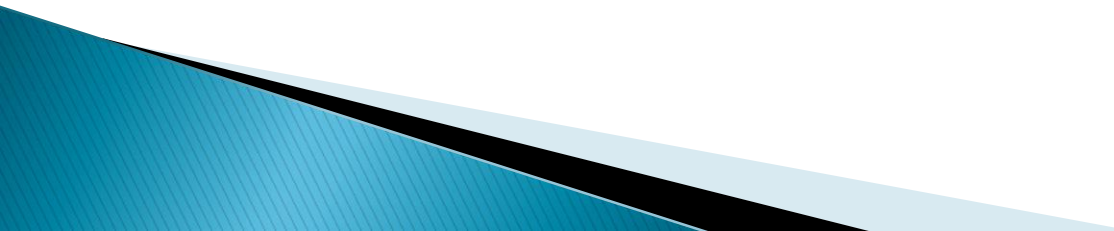
MGTA 2011 – Findings

- ▶ Does multiple marginality (e.g., high minority populations, high rates of school dropout, high unemployment, crime, poverty, and pro-social gun carrying attitudes) have some effect on the presence of gangs in Montana communities?
 - Performed logistic regression and backward selection logistic regression
 - Full model had some limited predictive value (R-square = .6264)
 - Only statistically significant variable left in the backward selection model was property crime rate
 - Suggests that counties with higher property crime rates tend to be more likely to have a gang presence

MGTA 2011 – Areas for future research

- ▶ Longitudinal research and replication
 - ▶ Security threat groups (i.e., prison gangs)
 - ▶ Geographical redistribution/expansion vs. local adaptation/adoption
 - ▶ Micro-level analysis
 - Identify gangs/gang members at the neighborhood level
 - Gauge the ethnic makeup and compare that with gang affiliation
 - Assess individual motivating and mitigating factors (e.g., What do individual gang member feel are the benefits of associating with a gang?)
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MGTA 2011 – Policy Implications

- ▶ More information needs to be known about OMGs
 - ▶ Gangs in rural areas tend to be susceptible to targeted intervention
 - ▶ Gangs are reliant upon active drug markets both in terms of street-sales and for personal use
 - ▶ Community initiatives should be aimed at reducing the opportunity for property crimes for profit to reduce gang's ability to finance their activities
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Questions? Or Comments?

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